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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 ROCKFISH, INC.,

CASE NO. C22-1659JLR

11 Plaintiff,

ORDER

12 v.

13 UNIDENTIFIED WRECKED AND
14 ABANDONED VESSEL,

Defendant.

15 Before the court is Plaintiff Rockfish Inc. and Claimant London Market Insurers'
16 ("LMI") stipulated motion requesting referral of this matter to a settlement judge for
17 purposes of conducting a judicial settlement conference pursuant to Western District of
18 Washington Local Civil Rule 39.1(e). (Mot. (Dkt. # 70).) The court has considered the
19 motion, the relevant portions of the record, and the applicable law. Being fully advised,
20 the court GRANTS the motion.

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22 ORDER - 1

1 LCR 39.1(e) provides that “[i]n any case, the court may appoint a settlement judge
2 who may conduct a settlement conference in such manner as that settlement judge may
3 deem appropriate.” Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 39.1(e). “[A] judicial settlement
4 conference will only be held in a case where the parties have already participated in
5 mediation, but have been unable to reach a settlement,” unless otherwise ordered by the
6 court. *Id.*

7 Here, Rockfish Inc. and LMI participated in mediation on July 14, 2023, and were
8 unsuccessful in reaching a settlement. (*See* Mot. at 2.) They now jointly move this court
9 to appoint a settlement judge to conduct a judicial settlement conference pursuant to LCR
10 39.1(e). (*See generally id.*) Accordingly, the court hereby appoints the Honorable
11 Michelle L. Peterson, United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of
12 Washington, to serve as settlement judge in this case. Counsel are directed to
13 communicate with Magistrate Judge Peterson, through her chambers staff, about the
14 delivery and length of settlement briefs, any other materials that should be provided, and
15 the time, place, and format of the settlement conference. The court DIRECTS the Clerk
16 to provide a copy of this order to Magistrate Judge Peterson.

17 Dated this 27th day of September.

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19 JAMES L. ROBART
United States District Judge
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